

**MINUTES OF FIRST ANNUAL MEETING OF GREYSTONES  
MUNICIPAL DISTRICT HELD IN CIVIC OFFICES, GREYSTONES  
ON TUESDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2024**

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**Present:** Councillors Mark Barry, Louise Fenelon Gaskin, Orla Finn,  
Tom Fortune, Lourda Scott & Stephen Stokes

**Also Present:** Mr. Michael Nicholson, District Manager  
Ms. Tawnia Kearns, District Administrator  
Ms. Kay Coughlan, Meetings Secretary

**Apologies:** Mr. Ruairi O’Hanlon, District Engineer

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At the outset Councillor S. Stokes thanked his fellow Councillors, the Council officials and the outdoor staff for their help and support during the past six months when he was Cathaoirleach. He went on to list various events and functions that he had attended and participated in during his term. He stated that it was an honour to live in the Greystones Municipal District and he thanked the public for electing him.

Councillors M. Barry, T. Fortune and L. Scott commended Councillor S. Stokes on his time as Cathaoirleach and stated that he was always fair in carrying out the role.

The District Manager thanked Councillor Stokes on behalf of all the staff of the Municipal District and stated that he had fully immersed himself in the role and attended every function. He congratulated him and all the members on their election and re-election and looked forward to working with them all going forward.

**1. Election of Cathaoirleach.**

It was proposed by Cllr. M. Barry and seconded by Cllr. L. Scott that Cllr. T. Fortune be elected as Cathaoirleach. As there were no other nominations, Cllr. Fortune was elected as Cathaoirleach of the Greystones Municipal District for the coming year and proceeded to take the chair.

Councillor Fortune thanked his fellow Councillors for electing him as Cathaoirleach and looked forward to working with them all for the betterment of the district. He welcomed the two new Councillors and commended the other members on their re-election.

He spoke about the various issues in the district and he stated that he hoped to progress the following matters during his term of office: facilities for local sporting clubs; facilities for local fishermen; derelict sites in the district; parking; toilet facilities; issues with bus services; regeneration plan for Kilcoole village; Killincarrig

village improvements; improvement works in Newcastle and Killadreenan and footpath works in Kilpedder; road markings, signs, footpath improvements and overgrown verges and maintaining a green belt between Kilcoole and Greystones. He stated that the members needed more input into the budgets and how they were spent and he spoke about the need for clarity on the situation with the film studios at Charlesland. He commended the Tidy Towns groups in the district and their work on climate change measures. He stated that the input of the Climate Change SPC was not always reflected in planning permissions granted.

The Cathaoirleach went on to speak about the undermining of Councillors functions and the lack of respect from some officials towards Councillors. He stated that a number of new unelected entities, such as Town Teams, were being promoted by the Council but they were unanswerable to anyone and did not have to stand for election.

The other members congratulated Councillor T. Fortune on his election as Cathaoirleach and the District Manager, on behalf of all the staff of the MD, also congratulated him and looked forward to working with him over the coming months.

## **2. Election of Leas-Cathaoirleach**

It was proposed by Cllr. T. Fortune and seconded by Cllr. O. Finn that Cllr. L. Scott be elected as Leas-Cathaoirleach for the Greystones Municipal District for the coming year. As there were no other nominations, Cllr. Scott was elected as Leas-Cathaoirleach.

The other members congratulated Councillor L. Scott on her election and wished her well and the District Manager also congratulated her on behalf of all the staff of the district.

Councillor L. Scott thanked her fellow Councillors for electing her and looked forward to working with them all over the coming months.

## **3. Adoption of Standing Orders**

A copy of the standing orders and the supplementary standing orders were circulated to the members with the Agenda.

The District Administrator referred to the times for meetings and suggested that it would be easier to get Council officials to attend various meetings if they were held during daytime hours.

Following discussion it was agreed that evening meetings were more suitable to facilitate members that worked during the day and to encourage the public to attend. It was proposed by Councillor L. Scott, seconded by Councillor M. Barry and agreed

that the Standing Orders and Supplementary Standings Orders be adopted with no amendments.

#### **4. Schedule of Meetings**

The District Administrator stated that the date and time of meetings set out in the standing orders circulated was that meetings were held on the last Tuesday of each month, except August, from 7.30 to 9.30 p.m. This schedule was again agreed by the members.

#### **5. To Nominate Members to the following Committees:**

Following discussion, the following members were elected to Wicklow County Council committees:

- (a) Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee – Councillor Mark Barry - proposed by Councillor S. Stokes and seconded by Councillor L. Fenelon Gaskin.
- (b) Bray Area Partnership – Councillor Orla Finn - proposed by Councillor S. Stokes and seconded by Councillor L. Scott.
- (c) East Coast Regional Drugs Task Force – Councillor Louise Fenelon Gaskin - proposed by Councillor S. Stokes and seconded by Councillor M. Barry.
- (d) Wicklow Tourism Alliance – Councillor Tom Fortune - proposed by Councillor S. Stokes and seconded by Councillor O. Finn.
- (e) Greystones / Bray Cliff Walk Management Committee – Councillors Mark Barry and Stephen Stokes - proposed by Councillors S. Stokes & L. Scott and seconded by Councillors T. Fortune & O. Finn.
- (f) Greystones Harbour Property DAC – Councillors Mark Barry and Tom Fortune - proposed by Councillor S. Stokes and seconded by Councillors L. Scott & L. Fenelon Gaskin.
- (g) Disability & Inclusion Steering Committee – Councillor Lourda Scott - proposed by Councillor S. Stokes and seconded by Councillor O. Finn.
- (h) Tourism & Town Twinning Committee – Councillors Mark Barry, Louise Fenelon Gaskin, Tom Fortune and Stephen Stokes - proposed by Councillors S. Stokes & M. Barry and seconded by Councillor L. Scott.

Following discussion it was agreed that all six Councillors should represent Greystones Municipal District on the Greystones Town Team unless they did not wish to do so. Councillor S. Stokes stated that, due to other commitments, he would not be in a position to accept that role.

The Cathaoirleach spoke again about the set-up of Town Teams and how they undermined the democratically elected Councillors although he acknowledged that the Town Team members worked voluntarily and did a lot of valuable work.

Members stated that having all members on the Town Team would improve transparency.

Both Councillors Louise Fenelon Gaskin and Orla Finn expressed an interest in being the representative on the Wicklow Heritage Forum although only one member was requested to do so by the Heritage Officer. It was agreed to seek clarification on this and to re-consider the matter at the July meeting.

It was also agreed to review and discuss the Community Affairs Committee and the Dr. Ryan Park Management Committee at the July meeting.

The District Administrator stated that the Community Affairs Committee was a historic one that used to organise the St. Patrick's Day Parade and the Christmas Lights that are now undertaken by the Town Team so it may not now be needed. She pointed out that the make-up of the Dr. Ryan Park Management Committee was being looked at by the CCSD Section of Wicklow County Council to see how this valuable asset could best be managed.

The Cathaoirleach invited all present to join him for refreshments in the Burnaby.

**THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING.**

**SIGNED:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**CATHAOIRLEACH**

**SIGNED:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**MEETINGS ADMINISTRATOR**

**Dated this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 2024**